

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) An air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus comprising at least one gas burner and a burner box around the at least one gas burner, said air inlet system comprising:

a cooktop configured to cover [[said]] the burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the at least one gas burner, said at least one peripheral vent cut defining a first opening through said cooktop; and

a vent trim attached to said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said vent trim comprising a top surface offset a distance above a top surface of said cooktop, said vent trim top surface comprising a plurality of second openings defined therein, said second openings aligned above said at least one peripheral vent cut, said vent trim facilitating isolating said plurality of second openings from spills on said cooktop, an attachment portion overlapping said top surface of said cooktop, said attachment portion extending along substantially a full length of said at least one peripheral vent cut, and at least one clip overlapping a bottom surface of said cooktop, said vent trim surface defining an underlying cavity, wherein said at least one clip is partially positioned within said cavity under said vent trim and said cooktop, said at least one clip attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of said vent trim and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to said bottom surface of said cooktop, wherein said second openings are configured to allow outside air to enter the burner box through said vent trim.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said attachment portion is sealed to said cooktop in water-tight engagement.

4. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 3 wherein said seal comprises adhesive tape.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said first opening is defined at a rear corner of said cooktop.

7. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 6 wherein said cooktop has a plurality of vent cuts each disposed at one rear corner.

8. (canceled)

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) An air inlet system for a gas cooking apparatus having at least one gas burner and a burner box around the at least one gas burner, said air inlet system comprising:

a cooktop configured to cover the burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into the burner box to provide air for the at least one gas burner; and

an elongated cover member attached to a top face and a bottom face of said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member having a top surface with openings configured to allow outside air to enter said at least one peripheral vent cut through said cover member, [[,]] said top surface offset a distance above said top face of said cooktop and said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member facilitating isolating said openings from spills on said cooktop, said top surface defining an underlying cavity, said cover member comprising at least one tab engaging said top face, ~~said cover member comprising an attachment portion having a lip extending substantially along a length of said cover member, said lip engaging said bottom face along substantially a full length of said at least one peripheral vent cut and at least one clip overlapping said bottom face of said cooktop, wherein said at least one clip is partially positioned within said cavity under said cover member and said cooktop, said at least one clip attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of said cover member and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to said bottom face of said cooktop.~~

11. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said cover member extends along an entire side of said top face of said cooktop.

12. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said at least one peripheral vent cut is along an edge of said cooktop exclusive of a corner of said cooktop.

13. (original) A system in accordance with Claim 12 wherein said cooktop has a plurality of vent cuts along said edge exclusive of said corner.

14. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 10 further comprising a seal for sealing said elongated cover member in water tight engagement along a side of said top face of said cooktop.

15. (previously presented) A system in accordance with Claim 14 wherein said seal is an adhesive seal.

16. (currently amended) A gas cooking apparatus comprising:

at least one gas burner;

a burner box for said at least one gas burner;

a cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into said burner box to provide air for said at least one gas burner, said at least one peripheral vent cut defining a first opening through said cooktop; and

a vent trim attached to said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said vent trim comprising a top surface offset a distance above a top surface of said cooktop, and comprising a plurality of second openings defined therein, said plurality of second openings aligned above said at least one peripheral vent cut, said vent trim facilitating isolating said second openings from spills on said cooktop, an attachment portion overlapping said top surface of said cooktop, said attachment portion extending along a full length of said at least one peripheral vent cut, and at least one clip overlapping a bottom surface of said cooktop, said vent trim surface defining an underlying cavity, wherein said at least one clip is partially positioned within said cavity under said vent trim and said cooktop, said at least one clip attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of said vent trim and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to said bottom surface of said cooktop, wherein said second openings are configured to allow outside air to enter said burner box through said vent trim.

17. (canceled)

18. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said attachment portion is sealed to said cooktop in water-tight engagement.

19. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 18 wherein said seal comprises adhesive tape.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 16 wherein said first opening is defined at a rear corner of said cooktop.

22. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 21 wherein a plurality of said peripheral vent cuts are each disposed at more than one rear corner of said cooktop.

23. (canceled)

24. (canceled)

25. (currently amended) A gas cooking apparatus comprising:

at least one gas burner;

a burner box for said at least one gas burner;

a sealed cooktop configured to cover said burner box and having at least one peripheral vent cut configured to vent outside air into said burner box to provide air for said gas burner; and

an elongated cover member attached to a top face and a bottom face of said cooktop and covering said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member having a top surface with openings configured to allow outside air to enter said at least one peripheral vent cut through said cover member, [[,]] said top surface offset a distance above said top face of said cooktop and said at least one peripheral vent cut, said cover member facilitating isolating said openings from spills on said cooktop, said surface defining an underlying cavity, said cover member comprising at least one tab engaging said top face, and ~~said cover member comprising an attachment portion having a lip extending substantially along a length of said cover member, said lip engaging said bottom face along substantially a full length of said at~~

least one peripheral vent cut at least one clip overlapping said bottom face of said cooktop, wherein said at least one clip is partially positioned within said cavity under said cover member and said cooktop, said at least one clip attached at a first end to a mounting portion inside a recessed region of said cover member and at a second end to a clip retainer fixedly attached to said bottom face of said cooktop.

26. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein said cover member extends along an entire side of said top face of said cooktop.

27. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 wherein said at least one peripheral vent cut is along an edge of said cooktop exclusive of a corner of said cooktop.

28. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 27 wherein said cooktop has a plurality of vent cuts along said edge exclusive of said corner.

29. (previously presented) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 25 further comprising an attachment for attaching said elongated cover member in water tight engagement along a side of said top face of said cooktop.

30. (original) An apparatus in accordance with Claim 29 wherein said attachment comprises adhesive tape.